

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A sensor strip for determining the concentration of an analyte in a sample, the sensor strip comprising:

- (a) a first substrate having a proximal end and an opposite distal end and a length therebetween, the distal end being configured and arranged for insertion into a sensor reader, the first substrate defining a first side edge and a second side edge of the sensor extending from the proximal end to the distal end of the first substrate, the first side edge and the second side edge defining a width of the first substrate and of the sensor;
- (b) a second substrate positioned over the first substrate;
- (c) at least one working electrode comprising gold on the first substrate; ~~and~~
- (d) at least one counter electrode comprising gold on the first substrate, with a portion of the counter electrode located 25-1000 micrometers from a portion of the at least one working electrode[.];
- (e) a spacer layer between the first and second substrates, the spacer layer having a length less than the length of the first substrate and a width the same as the width of the first substrate, the spacer layer defining:
  - (i) a first aperture along the proximal end of the sensor, and
  - (ii) a sample chamber extending from the first aperture to a second aperture, the sample chamber ~~comprising a measurement zone~~ having a volume of no more than 1 microliter, and the sample chamber defining a recess having therein at least a portion of the working electrode and a redox mediator ~~situated in the recess~~; and
- (f) the second aperture forming a rectangular vent hole through the second substrate.

17. (canceled)

18. (original) The sensor strip according to claim 16 wherein the spacer layer has a thickness of no more than 0.2 mm.

19. (original) The sensor strip according to claim 16 having a portion of the counter electrode located no more than 200 micrometers from a portion of the at least one working electrode.

20. (currently amended) The sensor strip according to claim 16 ~~having a measurement zone~~ having wherein the sample chamber has a volume of no more than 0.5 microliter.

21. (currently amended) The sensor strip according to claim 20 ~~having a measurement zone~~ having wherein the sample chamber has a volume of no more than 0.2 microliter.

22. (new) The sensor strip according to claim 21 wherein the sample chamber has a volume of no more than 0.1 microliter.

23. (new) The sensor strip according to claim 16 wherein the at least one working electrode has a working area of no more than about 0.01 cm<sup>2</sup>.

24. (new) The sensor strip according to claim 16 further comprising at least one indicator electrode on at least one of the first and second substrates and positioned relative to the sample chamber to determine when the sample chamber contains sample.

25. (new) The sensor strip according to claim 16, wherein the redox mediator is a diffusible redox mediator.

26. (new) The sensor strip according to claim 16, wherein the redox mediator comprises an osmium redox mediator.
27. (new) The sensor strip according to claim 16, further comprising an analyte-responsive enzyme in the recess.
28. (new) The sensor strip according to claim 16, further comprising a second working electrode on the first substrate.
29. (new) The sensor strip according to claim 16, wherein the second substrate has a length, and the length of the spacer layer is less than the length of the second substrate.
30. (new) The sensor strip according to claim 16, wherein the analyte is glucose and the sample is blood.
31. (new) The sensor strip of claim 16 having a measurement period less than about 5 minutes.
32. (new) The sensor strip of claim 16 wherein the redox mediator is configured to determine the concentration of analyte in a measurement period of no more than about 5 minutes.
33. (new) The sensor strip of claim 32 wherein the redox mediator is configured to determine the concentration of analyte in a measurement period of no more than about 1 minute.